

NOW ON SALE.

THE CHRONICLE & DIRECTORY
FOR
CHINA, JAPAN, THE PHILIPPINES, SOUTHERN
SETTLEMENTS, COCHIN CHINA, Siam, &c.
FOR 1882.
With which is incorporated
THE CHINA DIRECTORY.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY,

which is now in its

TWENTIETH YEAR OF PUBLICATION,
has been considerably extended, both in the
Directory proper and in the Appendix. The
ports of CHUNGKING, WLIWSTOCK, MA-
LAOCA, and PENANG have been added to the
former; whilst the latter includes the NEW
ORDER IN COUNCIL for the Government of
British Subjects in China and Japan, the Amend-
ed TREATY between RUSSIA and CHINA, the
NEW TREATIES between the UNITED STATES
and CHINA, the NEW TREATY between
GERMANY and CHINA, a translation of the TREATY
between SPAIN and ANAM signed in 1880 &c.
The ALPHABETICAL LIST of FOREIGN
RESIDENTS has been increased by upwards of
1,000 names and gives reference to over 2,000
NEW RESIDENTS.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY

is embellished with the following Lithographed

MAPS and PLANS:

CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT VICTORIA BAY,
MAP OF THE ISLAND OF HONGKONG.

PLAN OF THE CITY OF VICTORIA.

MAP OF THE COAST OF CHINA.

PLAN OF THE CITY OF CANTON.

PLAN OF THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS AT
SHANGHAI.

PLAN OF YOKOHAMA.

MAP OF THE TOWN AND ENVIRONS OF
SINGAPORE.

The large Edition contains ONE THOUSAND
pages of printed matter. It is indispensable
in every Merchant's Office in the Far East and
will be found a useful guide to those tra-
velling either on business or pleasure.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY,
is published in Two Forms—Complete at \$5, or
with the List of Residents, Port Descriptions
and Directories, Plan of Victoria, Code of Sig-
nals, &c. at \$3.

Orders for Copies may be sent to the Daily
Press Office, where it is published, or to the
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NEW YORK.....Messrs. S. M. Pittengill & Co., 37, Park Row.

Daily Press Office, 8th Floor, 1882.

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Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

This is how Mr. Labouchere discourses in Truth on the reply of the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies to the question of the Chinese slave-trade.

HONKONG, JUNE 9TH, 1882.

Or all Eastern countries, remarks a Calcutta paper, "Siam seems to be most 'alive' to the necessity of moving with the age." We certainly had some doubts on this head, born of recent experience, in connection with the Postal and Telegraph systems undertaken some time ago, which seem destined to be referred to the Greek Kalends or some equally uncertain period. Our Indian contemporary is of a more sanguine and believing disposition, for it says—"A scheme to connect the districts of Mergui with Bangkok by a railway or tramway has received the approval of the Siamese Government. The accomplishment of this scheme would shorten the route between Calcutta and Hongkong by several days, and would doubtless be taken advantage of for mails and passengers, although the necessity for breaking bulk would prevent its being used for through goods. There would, it is believed, be a considerable local traffic, which would form the mainstay of the line. So far as Siam is concerned, this would probably take place between Burmah and Siam, which would in turn lead to an extension of the line northwards to Rangoon." There is no doubt that the railway proposed would be perfectly practicable, will perhaps some day be made, and would have some of the results ascribed to it by our Calcutta contemporary. A mere glance at the map will serve to con-

vince anyone that a sea trip from Hongkong to Bangkok, from thence by rail to Rangoon, and on by steamer from that port to the City of Palaces would save time in the journey to Calcutta. Whether it will pay under present circumstances to even make the connecting railway from Bangkok to Rangoon is open to question. Whilst there are many travellers who would like the breaks in the journey which the route via Bangkok and Burmah would afford, a good proportion would by choice go by the direct route and avoid the trouble attendant upon changing. Of course a good traffic would soon spring up between Burmah and Siam, by the railway, but what dimensions this might attain we are not in a position to judge. Nevertheless the scheme has advantages enough to recommend itself to the attention both of the Siamese and British Burmah Governments. It is a much more reasonable and altogether more feasible project than the much vaunted Kraw Canal scheme, which, if made, would never return any adequate interest on the capital. While, however, the proposed railway is an undertaking that might suitably engage the interest and attention of the Siamese Government, we sadly fear there is little likelihood of its ever being completed if its construction depends upon them. They are too fond of taking up new fancies and dropping them again to support and carry through a great work like this. No mention of such an enterprise has ever been made by our correspondent, and the Bangkok paper has also been silent on the subject. Is it not possible that the Calcutta paper was misinformed or that the news is premature?

The delivery of the English mail was begun at 10.10 p.m. yesterday.

The Agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) inform us that the steamer *Gelephant*, from London, left Singapore for this port on the 7th instant.

The Singapore Times says that news has been received by the Straits Government, we learn, that Lord Kimberley has reconsidered his decision with regard to the disbandment of the English Contingent in the Colony, and has given a general order to withdraw it. If this is the case, similar overtures were made to General (then Colonel) Gordon, but failed.

An announcement in another column states that Herr Bandmann has agreed to take

the command of the steamer *Gelephant*, which is to sail on Saturday next, and the *Gelephant* is to be replaced by the *Gelephant*, which will be under command of Captain H. H. Keped, in command. The *Gelephant* was a wooden sailing frigate on her way to Hongkong.

The Amoy Gazette has the following—At about eight o'clock p.m., on the 3rd instant, a fire broke out in the town of Amoy close by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank buildings, and there being a strong Southwest wind blowing at the time the fire made considerable headway and threatened to become a serious conflagration, but at nine p.m. the fire was extinguished by the crew falling and smothering the flames.

Our native friends would seem to be taking alarm at the large sums withdrawn by Cambodian and other capitalists from the native agencies and banks in Hongkong. The amounts quite lately withdrawn are said to foot up to the somewhat alarming aggregate of \$2,000,000—over \$200 million of the capital of the colony, which suspicion has caused many depositors to withdraw their deposits before the general suspension of payment by the Bank of Siam.

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Captain Keped, captain of the *Gelephant*, has been raised to the rank of Rear-Admiral, and ordered to command the Amoy Contingent—Chief of the Russian Fleet in the Far East. Captain Keped belongs to the new school of officers, who are being established in high places to carry out the policy of reform of Prince Alexius and the Minister of Marine, Admiral Shestakoff.

The debauched practice of opium-smoking has been developed in the city of New York to an extent that the State Legislature has resolved to enact a special measure for its repression. As long as indulgence in the Indian narcotic was mainly confined to Chinamen and negroes the authorities did not interfere. Now, however, that "white Americans" have taken to it in considerable numbers and with deplorable results, opium-smoking establishments are to be suppressed.

We believe that despatches on the subject of opium and the Chinese Convention are now on their way from Sir Thomas Wade, H.B.M.'s Minister in Peking, under express for China, to the Foreign Ministers (including Mr. Hart) of the various European Powers. The despatches were mentioned by Sir Charles Dilke, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in his speech at the opening of the 1882 session of Parliament. The contents of all this is that a request for a meeting of delegates of all the countries interested in the land question has been circulated in Canton by incorporated capitalists, but a true explanation may more probably be found in the suspicion that much capital has been advanced to land speculators, which suspicion has caused many depositors to withdraw their deposits before the general suspension of payment by the Bank of Siam.

The latest mail advised us that the *Gelephant* had been sold for \$17,500,000 for the Amoy Contingent, and that the *Gelephant* was to be replaced by the *Gelephant*, which will be under command of Captain H. H. Keped, in command. The *Gelephant* was a wooden sailing frigate on her way to Hongkong.

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The *Streets' Times* of the 28th inst. has the following about the *Tee Raco*—"The *Streets' Times*, the first of the tea steamers, arrived last night about 10 o'clock, from Calcutta. Whether it will pay under present circumstances to even make the connecting railway from Bangkok to Rangoon is open to question. Whilst there are many travellers who would like the breaks in the journey which the route via Bangkok and Burmah would afford, a good proportion would by choice go by the direct route and avoid the trouble attendant upon changing. Of course a good traffic would soon spring up between Burmah and Siam, by the railway, but what dimensions this might attain we are not in a position to judge. Nevertheless the scheme has advantages enough to recommend itself to the attention both of the Siamese and British Burmah Governments. It is a much more reasonable and altogether more feasible project than the much vaunted Kraw Canal scheme, which, if made, would never return any adequate interest on the capital. While, however, the proposed railway is an undertaking that might suitably engage the interest and attention of the Siamese Government, we sadly fear there is little likelihood of its ever being completed if its construction depends upon them. They are too fond of taking up new fancies and dropping them again to support and carry through a great work like this. No mention of such an enterprise has ever been made by our correspondent, and the Bangkok paper has also been silent on the subject. Is it not possible that the Calcutta paper was misinformed or that the news is premature?

Beaudet made an excellent *Portia*, her clear de-
livery and earnestness

down the principle that the parent was entitled to the support and aid of his children. There could be no doubt that slavery did exist in Hongkong, although it was prohibited by English law. He trusted that the inquiry which was going to be held by Lord Kimberley into the matter would be made by impartial persons. He attached considerable importance to that statement, but he did not think that there were indications that we were not as vigorous in our efforts against slavery as we formerly were. (Hear.)

Mr. Courtney thought it would be admitted that it had always been the desire of recent Governments to use their influence to prevent, not only slavery, but everything apposite thereto. The hon. member for Northampton did not appear to be of that opinion, and he could not conceive of any objection against the Government, which seemed to have no foundation whatever. He must point out to the House that the hon. member had brought an extraordinary accusation against the Government. He said that he was credibly informed that slavery existed in Laos. But he had not deemed it necessary to add a single fact or circumstance in support of that statement. How it was possible that the hon. member could have such a charge as that? He should have thought that it would have been the duty of the hon. member, before bringing such a charge, to make inquiry as to its correctness. (Hear, hear.) It was the belief of the Government that slavery had ceased to exist, not only in Laos but in all the other places to which the hon. member referred. Every attempt to give the hon. member any information by all recent Governments. The hon. member complained that there were no papers on the subject. But several papers were published in reference to the West Coast of Africa in 1875, and many others dealing with other places had also been published from time to time. The hon. member surely could not require that papers on that subject should be issued year by year, when no fresh case of any description had been brought forward. There was no slavery in the Malay States; however, some correspondence with the Governor of that district was in existence, and would be shortly laid before the House. The hon. member for Northampton said he was going to rest his observations upon a substantial foundation—upon the remarks of Chief Justice Small, and not upon the statement of any newspaper correspondent. He thought the hon. member ought to know the views of newspaper correspondents, but he had not seen a single article of that kind. The hon. member seemed to speak somewhat slightly of them. The fact was the hon. member used the word "slavery" with some degree of looseness. His remarks chiefly referred to Hongkong, and to the slavery in existence there. But, as a fact, the state of things in Hongkong, though, no doubt, deplorable, did not amount to slavery. Slavery is deemed to be a condition of life in which one person, or a number of persons, are compelled to work for and fill the will of another, such a way that the abominated person could not escape, which condition, also, is the law of the country enforced. It defined slavery sound and solid, it was nothing of the kind existed in Hongkong, because in that city the English law prevailed. The hon. member for Northampton considered the whole strength of his position lies in the fact that people were bound to work for the purpose of prostitution. Now there were special laws in Hongkong affecting purchases and sales for that purpose. It was enacted in 1855 that the sale or purchase of a woman or child for the purpose of prostitution, or the harbouring of any woman or child for that purpose, should be a misdemeanour. Every person, therefore, who affected to buy or sell or to hold out that any woman or child had been bought or sold for that purpose, was liable to a fine of a minimum sum. There was a vast number of people who were bought and sold for other purposes, and such sales constituted no offence. It was so in England. They all knew of the common accusation of husbands selling their wives in Smithfield, and of the practice not unknown even at the present day. The transaction, however, was a pure nullity. That was the state of facts as at present existed in Hongkong, and, perhaps, might be the state of the majority of the dependent states of society; but when they remembered the situation of Hongkong, placed in the centre of a teeming population that could with difficulty obtain a livelihood, they could not be surprised at it. In quoting the position of the Chinese inhabitants of Hongkong with the view of showing how rotten public opinion there was, the hon. member for Northampton omitted the part of the public opinion which was the expression of a vast number of people for the purposes of prostitution and for the purposes of adoption and friendship; but he would point out that none who were so adopted could be held in servitude against their will, that they could escape, that they could apply to the Courts, and that anyone could apply on their behalf. The fact of their having been sold, Lord Kimberley had pointed out, did not deprive them of any rights. Unquestionably the position of things in Hongkong was such as to be considered to be scandalous, and his noble friend had suggested for consideration whether the entering into agreements should be made a misdemeanour, whether specified conditions should be exacted, whether some combination of these provisions should be adopted, in order to prevent abuses. The action of the hon. member for Northampton would not prevent him from doing what he could do to arrest the growth of a servile class of a different race from the dominant class, conscious as they were of the dangers that were inseparable from such a condition of things.

Mr. Dillwyn could not help expressing his disappointment at the tone of the last speech, which was a half-hearted condemnation amounting almost to a defence of gross abuses. Whether there was legal slavery or not, and whether practically slaves were held in form, and the more or less real condition of things was realized, the hon. member could not help fearing that the hon. member for Northampton deserved thanks for having called attention to it.

Mr. Cropper said that the Colonial Office had laid before the House the result of their investigations into that matter, and Lord Kimberley had expressed a desire that a full and trustworthy inquiry should be made. The hon. member for Northampton had said that the only course that could be taken was to refer the matter to the Home Office, and that the evils which might be brought to light &c. &c. had great influence in Sir George Bentinck and Sir John Smale, and he fully believed that what they would see was that in some way the system of colonial slavery, which it could not be denied existed to a certain extent at Hongkong, would be changed. The great evil of retaining girls in houses of ill-repute at Hongkong, and the larger number of slaves which could only be removed by a question as to contagious disease at Hongkong was thoroughly gone into. He was convinced that the feeling expressed in England some years ago as the subject of the slave circular had had a good effect, and that it was now a point of honour in the Navy that wherever the British flag was slavery was to be discouraged.

A Telegram from Vienna states that the Emperor and Empress of Austria will visit Trieste in the middle of May in order to open the exhibition there. It is not probable that the Emperor will be able to visit to Italy.

The same State Visit is intended by Prince Russell. This Illustrated Pamphlet on Perfumery, &c., published at £1, may be had gratis from any Chemist or dealer in London. —[Advt.] 1621

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

TUESDAY, 8th June.

EXPORT CARGO.

Per shipowner, London—300 chests tea, 14,500 lbs. for Canton, 12,615 lbs. for the 25th June, 55 lbs. hams, 96 lbs. raw silk, 80 boxes silk goods, and 200 pieces sunnies. For Continent—32 boxes raw silk and 43 pieces sunnies.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON—Bank Bills, on demand, £100. Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight, £100. Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight, £100. Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight, £100.

ON PARIS—Bank Bills, on demand, £4.82. Credit, at 4 months' sight, £4.80.

ON BOMBAY—Bank, 3 days' sight, £22.

ON CALCUTTA—Bank, 3 days' sight, £22.

ON SHANGHAI—Bank, sight, £78.

Private, 60 days' sight, £78.

SHARES:

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares—118 per cent. premium.

Union Insurance Society of Canton—£1,325 per share, ex dividend.

China Insurance Company's Shares—£1,350 per share.

China Insurance Association—£1,270 per share.

Chinese Insurance Company—£250 per share.

On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—The 142 per share.

Canton Insurance Office, Limited—£80 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—no share.

China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—£90 per share.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—50 per cent. premium.

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—Shares—27 per cent. premium.

Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.'s Shares—no share.

Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—£82 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—£102 per share.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—£170 per share.

China Sugar Refining Company (Debentures)—3 per cent. premium.

Luxo Sugar Refining Company, Limited—£120 per share.

China Imperial Loan—£100 per share.

China Imperial Loan of 1874—£109 Nominal.

China Imperial Loan of 1877—£107 Nominal.

China Imperial Loan of 1878—2 per cent. premium.

China Imperial Loan of 1881—2 per cent. premium.

Hongkong, 10th May, 1882. [888]

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

FROM MESSRS. FALCONER & CO., BARBERS.

June 8th.

Barometer—94.0 M. 29.614

Barometer—94.0 M. 29.612

Barometer—94.0 M. 29.610

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EXTRACTS.

SUMMER.
By JOHN ADDINGTON STRACHE.
A sweet and strange, what thou say—morning steals
Over the misty hills, and gently stirs
Bed-linen times and pampas robes;
To brush the down-boughed goose-weave
From meadow grasses and beneath black firs,
In limpid streams, or translucent lakes;
To bathe and dive horned-hummed brakas!
O sweet and sumptuous at height of noon,
Languid to lie on scented summer lawns
Formed by faint breaths of the breathless June;
To watch the timorous and trooping fawns,
Dappled like tender clouds in early dew,
Forth from their ferny covert glades to drink
And cool thy limbs beside the river's brink!
O strange and soon day-light disappears,
To hear the croaking of the homeward wain,
Drawn by thy yoke of tardy-pacing steers,
Neath honey-ruddy hedge and templed lane,
To breathe faint roses on the wane
By cottage door, and watch the mellowing sky
Fade into sunset hues insensibly.

AN EXTRAORDINARY FISH.
There is now on exhibition in Bombay a remarkable fish, which, according to the exhibitors, is a distinct proof of the existence of the mermaid, a being hitherto believed to be only a myth invented by the imaginative mind of some individual who wished to give a poetic character to the inhabitants of the deep. The animal to which we are referring was brought to Bombay from Aden a few days since in one of the Rubattino steamers by two Turks, who allege that they caught the creature alive on the coast of the Red Sea, near Jeddah. It had got into shallow water, and with some little difficulty they secured it, and took it on to Aden where it was putridly exhibited for some time. The animal is about nine feet long, and although answering in many particulars to preconceived ideas of a mermaid, it has the inherent defect of partaking of the male genus and is in other respects so hideously ugly, that it is impossible to reconcile it with the graceful creatures depicted on trademarks and advertisements of marine objects. Its head is more like that of a pig or a monkey than of a man, but it has clearly recognizable nose and mouth, and on its forehead are a number of stiff bristles which have somewhat the appearance of hair. Its eyes are situated at the side of its head instead of the front. The most wonderful feature of the animal is a pair of arms, which bear a great resemblance to the upper limbs of a monkey, with the exception that they are much shorter. There are four long fingers and a short one answering to the thumb on the hand, and the joints of each finger are plainly discernible. From the hand the body gradually decreases in circumference until it culminates in a well-defined tail similar to that of an ordinary fish. For

purposes of preservation the inside of the animal has been removed, and is now possibly to the action of chemical or vegetable substances used to prevent decay, the skin presents a dark brown appearance and is hard and smooth to the touch. Altogether this curious monster of the deep affords an interesting study to naturalists, and a critical examination of its structure by a competent man should be made in the interests of science. Scopical people are of opinion that the whole thing is an imposture; but all we can say is that if the animal is not what it is represented to be, it is one of the cleverest deceptions that we have ever seen, and its exhibitors deserve all they may receive in the shape of fees for admission.—Times of India, April 29th.

THE TAUCHNITZ LIBRARY.
If the history of modern civilisation ever comes to be written from the impartial heights of some never and braver world, it will surely contain a paragraph upon the brief influence of a German publisher's steadfast enterprise. Somewhere about the year 1840, it will say in effect, Mr. Bernard

Tauchnitz of Leipzig, began the publication of the works of current English authors in neat, handy volumes, which were clearly printed, and sold upon the continent of Europe at a price much below the cost of the same works in England. There was no copyright treaty between England and Saxony, and the English author and publisher could not interfere with the sale of Mr. Tauchnitz's reprints; the English-speaking residents or travellers, meanwhile, was delighted at finding so easy an access to the latest and best English literature, and the Tauchnitz editions became favourite ones. Travellers, especially, released from the tyranny of traditional publishing customs, were greatly pleased at discovering English books which they could buy without a sense of guilty extravagance, and carry without paying for extra weight of luggage. They became so attached to the companionable little works that they used more dexterity and ingenuity in smuggling them back to England than in conceiving any other class of contraband goods. Mr. Tauchnitz justified the praise which he received from travellers by using a wise discrimination in his choice of books for re-publication, and by making the authors of these books partners in his profits of the profits of the enterprise. His library grew in scope and in number, taking in the works of Americans as well as English writers, and including standard publications, which helped to make the library a representative of the growth of English literature. The art of typography was neither English nor German, but an individual combination of the two, while the proof-reading was so unvaryingly good as to create a constant wonder. The enterprise was a business one, but it was marked by such sound judgment, good-taste, fairness of dealing, and honourable regard for all concerned, that it won for its projector a distinguished place in the history of literature. He was created Baron Tauchnitz, but was not in the least spoilt by the honour, continuing to give just as careful attention to his business. When he had published nine hundred and ninety-nine volumes he commemorated the event by making the thousandth an edition of the New Testament, under the editorship of the eminent scholar, Constantine von Tischendorf, whose edition of the Greek New Testament he had also published; for Tauchnitz was known, aside from his English library, as perhaps the most considerable publisher of ancient classics, sharing a reputation for this work with Toubner. The Tauchnitz edition is indeed a singular monument to sound judgment; for the scheme was so well considered from the outset that, though forty years have elapsed since the publication of the first volume, the general style of the first and the two thousandth is the same.

In publishing the Two Thousandth volume of my series, the feeling deepest and strongest in my mind is that of gratitude to God for having permitted me to carry on my undertaking for the long period of forty years, during fifteen of which my eldest son, Bernhard, has supported me with the greatest loyalty and devotion. Many a great author, whose brilliant name is an ornament to the collection, has, during the lapse of time, passed away; and on this occasion, when I am, as it were, placing a memorial stone of my progress, the recollection of such losses comes home to me with peculiar poignancy. But though the dead are gone, their works remain; new authors have joined the ranks, and I am encouraged to hope that the Tauchnitz edition will still proceed in its old spirit, and continue to fulfil its mission by spreading and strengthening the love for English literature outside of England and her colonies."—Atlantic Monthly.

EXERCISE.

Give your brain sufficient food and an abundant supply of oxygen; and then give it a fair amount of good hard work every day, if you wish to maintain it in a high state of healthy activity. Barristers and clergymen, who use their brains much, are the longest-lived men in the country, showing plainly that regular "brain work" is good for the general health as well as for the efficiency of the nervous system in particular. The muscular system must be treated in a similar manner, if you do not wish it to become subject to fatty degeneration. An unused muscle shrinks, and becomes soft and flabby, presenting an appearance of marked contrast to the bravely arm of the blacksmith. Instances of the feebleness of tissues thus preserved frequently present themselves to the notice of the surgeon. A muscle is called upon to perform a vigorous contraction, but it snaps in the effort. The heart itself is sometimes torn asunder in attempting to send an extra supply of blood to some noisy limb. No man can afford to lower his general vitality for the sake of more idle gratification. He never knows when he may require all the energy which can be stored up in his tissues. A railway accident, a runaway horse, a run to catch a train, a fall in the ice, or even a fit of coughing, may bring a life of misery or an early death to one who would have passed unnoticed through them all had he allowed his nervous and muscular system to wear away in vigorous activity, instead of carefully preserving them, like smoked bacon, the fumes of tobacco—

A WONDERFUL TELEPHONE.
A very remarkable improvement in the telephone, by means of which vocal messages can be transmitted over the wires thousands of miles and hundreds of miles, as heretofore, is said to have been recently demonstrated in Boston, where the main offices of the Bell Telephone Company is situated. The report has created some interest among electricians in this city, as it seems to open, if verified in all its details, a future for the speaking telephone not second to that of the telegraph itself, indicating indeed, in the opinion of the most sanguine, that vocal transmission will ultimately supersede the written message for many practical purposes. It appears that Mr. C. E. Chinook, who is employed by the Metropolitan Telephone Company, of this city, in the capacity of electrician had occasion, a couple of weeks ago, to pay a visit to Boston in order to confer with the Bell Telephone Company. While there he was shown by Mr. Jacques, the electrician of that company, the workings of an invention by the use of which parties as distant from each other as New York and Boston can converse with each other intelligibly and rapidly. It is stated that the only alterations required in the construction of the telephone as now in use in this city, consist in the substitution of batteries of four cells each for those ones employed for telephoning in the present state of the science, and in the substitution of carbons treated in a particular manner which is kept secret yet in place of the simple carbon vibrating surface, with which even the ordinary observer is familiar.—New York Times, April 6th.

NATURE'S MURDERERS.

A correspondent writes to the *St. James's Gazette*:—"In Professor Newell's letter to the newspapers, he says that 'If we give up the cruelty of mangling birds with the gun and leave the little hawks to kill them with divine dexterity, they will remain as numerous as now.' Surely imagination is at work here more tenderly than keenly. Anyone who has spent quiet days on the lonely moors must have seen a sparrowhawk chasing a lark. We cannot tell what the lark's private opinions may be, but to all outward appearance it never appreciates 'divine dexterity.' The chase often lasts from twenty minutes to half an hour. Sometimes the lark gets clean away; sometimes it takes refuge at the feet of a man, or in some friendly cottage; but more often the poor creature's flight grows feeble, and the savage enemy stoops and brings it down. When the expert and captor reach the ground the divine dexterity makes it manifest in a most butchery process of tearing rending. Partridges and grouse, which are pursued by the larger hawks, seem also to suffer terrible agony during their flight. In fact, from all observation, I incline to believe that, if the birds could be got to deliver an impartial opinion, they would declare in favour of the swift oblivion given by the gun rather than in favour of the long terror of flight, and the cruel rending of beak and talons. Professor Newell may have means of accurately gauging ornithological opinion; but we, the most part of us, can only form judgments from common observation. Those who favour the profession's view of Nature's operations should try to spend one long day in some wild place. They would find that day a cycle of murder. Supposing that the place is by the sea, down first of all by the side of some deep break in the rocks and watch what goes on as the tide flows in. The gull lurks behind the waving weeds and dashes out now and again on his prey; the dog-ear alides along and watches his chance; the black bell winds sinuously about, with his villainous eye and his snaky coils making him look like the very genius of murder. By the time the gap is completely filled the observer sees one great battle of species against species; and he knows that the same fight is going on in every bay down the coast. Inland, the same kind of wild work may be seen by dexterous watching. A rabbit stumbles hopelessly among the tufts. It seems dazed and forlorn. A few yards behind comes a tiny brown creature, with white breast and vicious little teeth; and the poor rabbit knows that there is no escape from this deadly pursuer. Unless you care to deliver the rabbit from divine dexterity, you will see how Nature's butchers work. The chase begins to run in halting circles; then it stops and screams; then there is a brown flash, and the weasel is fixed like an ugly parasite behind the poor victim's ears, then there is silence. Half an hour after you will see the rabbit abandoned with a gash wound in its neck. If your terrier accompanies you, then the rabbit is saved, and the weasel becomes the murderer. To illustrate the vast scope of the work, the following facts are submitted for consideration:—Chalmers' *Vocabulary* contains about 30,000 words which the Chinese have of late years been compelled to coin to express the numerous objects in machinery, photography, telegraphy, &c. In science generally, which has been a field of foreign invasion, there are now more than 100,000 Chinese characters. Of these examples the student of this difficult language absolutely requires to display the various applications and equivalents of different words which have one general meaning. Of these examples the work contains more than five times as many as any other Dictionary hitherto published.

For practical purposes the arrangement of the work is so complete, that a reference to its pages enables a person who understands English to communicate effectively with natives who understand nothing but Chinese. In this respect the work will be found especially useful to European residents in China, as to the natives. It explains subjects fully with which very few indeed of them are perfectly acquainted. To parties resident in England and interested in China it cannot but be invaluable occasionally. It comprises upwards of two thousand large quarto pages.

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